

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 061861

FOR CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, MILL, LA, US, TH

SUBJECT: DEMARCHE RE LAO PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH

REF: 1. VIENTIANE 314,2.,7VIENTIANE 1143, 3. 77 VIENTIANE
1136, 4. 77 VIENTIANE 1133, 5. 77 VIENTIANE 870, 6.
77 VIENTIANE 180, 7. 77 VIENTIANE 93

1. DEPARTMENT CONCURS IN PROPOSAL REF 1 THAT CHARGE REQUEST
MEETING WITH DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER NOUPHAN TO REPEAT
OFFICIAL U.S. DENIAL THAT WE HAVE REACTIVATED U.S. BASES
IN THAILAND. WE NOTE THAT THIS IS HACKNEYED CHARGE OF
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LAO MEDIA PROPAGANDA (REFS 2, 3, 6 AND 7) WHICH WAS
REPEATED BY PRESIDENT SOUPHANOUVONG LAST AUGUST (REF 4).

2. BOTH WOODCOCK COMMISSION AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY
OAKLEY LAST YEAR OFFICIALLY REASSURED LAO THAT U.S. HAS
NO PLANS TO RE-OPEN BASES IN THAILAND, NOR HAS THAI
GOVERNMENT MADE ANY PROPOSAL TO THAT EFFECT. OAKLEY ALSO

POINTED OUT THAT U.S. GRANT MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THAILAND WAS ENDING; THAT U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE WOULD NOT BE REINTRODUCED; AND THAT OUR SMALL MILITARY ADVISORY GROUP IN THAILAND AND OCCASIONAL SHIP VISITS POSED NO THREAT TO LAOS (REF 5).

3. WE HAVE, OF COURSE, REPEATEDLY ASSURED THE LAO THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HARBORS NO HOSTILE INTENTIONS TOWARD THE LPDR AND IS NOT SUPPORTING ANY INSURGENT MOVEMENT OR ACTIVITY EITHER IN LAOS OR ABROAD.

4. YOU MAY DRAW ON ABOVE IN MAKING YOUR DEMARCHE AND MAY NOTE THAT UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT DOES NOT FIND SUCH REPEATED PUBLIC CHARGES HELPFUL IN CREATING CLIMATE FOR IMPROVED U.S.-LAO RELATIONS, ESPECIALLY SINCE WE HAVE FORMALLY DENIED THESE ALLEGATIONS TO LAO OFFICIALS.

5. WE WOULD PREFER THAT YOU NOT REPEAT NOT RAISE ISSUE OF POSSIBLE HUMANITARIAN FOOD AID WITH NOUPHAN IN THIS CONTEXT. IF THE LAO ASK ABOUT THEIR FOOD AID REQUEST, YOU SHOULD CONFINE YOURSELF TO THE STATEMENT THAT IT IS STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION AND NOT REPEAT NOT LINK IT IT WITH THE ATTITUDE OF THE LPDR.

6. FYI. ONLY U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL NOW REMAINING IN THAILAND ARE OUR DEFENSE ATTACHES, 40 MEMBERS OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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JOINT UNITED STATES MILITARY ADVISORY GROUP (THIS NUMBER IS LIMITED BY LAW), AND 23 PERSONS ATTACHED TO THE SUCCESSOR FACILITY TO THE SEATO MEDICAL RESEARCH LABORATORY. THAI HAVE CONTINUED TO ALLOW US TO USE A THAI AIRPORT FOR REFUELING AND EMERGENCY REPAIRS FOR OUR MILITARY PLANES. END FYI.

7. IF LAO OFFICIALS CONTINUE TO MAKE ACCUSATIONS ABOUT REACTIVATION OF U.S. BASES IN THAILAND AND U.S. ASSISTANCE TO LAO INSURGENTS, YOU SHOULD CONTINUE TO REFUTE THESE ALLEGATIONS FORMALLY AND INFORMALLY AS APPROPRIATE. VANCE

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